TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

To help teachers make a difference in their districts and communities, our innovative online Teacher Leadership program offers graduate certificates that can lead to a master’s degree. Our coursework threads reflective practices, content mastery and skill development throughout so that students can practice leadership skills as they engage with the curriculum. This program is offered entirely online and is organized around asynchronous (course work completed at separate times) as well as synchronous formats (meeting virtually at the same time).

MA in Teacher Leadership

To earn the master’s degree, students will complete three graduate certificates. Each certificate blends together on-demand, self-paced online courses with a synchronous capstone course held in the summer. These affordable certificates have been designed for educators looking to enhance their skills and capacities as classroom teachers and leaders and to make a difference in their schools and local communities. Students can choose to take classes and separately complete certificates without enrolling in the full MA program.

Graduate Certificates in Teacher Leadership

Social and Emotional Learning - Graduate Certificate

The certificate in Social and Emotional Learning provides practicing teachers with requisite background knowledge, understanding, and preparation so as to engage students in social and emotional learning. In order for teachers to enable students to become more aware and understanding of their own and others’ emotions, teachers need to understand their own emotions as well.

The arena of social and emotional learning is a new, growing, and much needed public school curricular domain. During the last three decades, public schools have focused almost exclusively on cognitive academic outcomes. While some progress has been achieved, the consensus seems to be that a renewed emphasis on the whole student needs to be restored. At the same time teachers’ professional work conditions have deteriorated. Teachers new to the field are leaving the profession at greater rates than in the past. Teacher “burnout” is a recognized and acknowledged public education phenomenon.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education - Graduate Certificate

The certificate in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education will offer teachers an introduction to the history and current policy and laws that relate to emerging bilingual learners in Colorado public schools. Teachers will learn about the process of language acquisition, develop skills and strategies to teach English and adapt their curriculum and instruction to the developing needs of emerging bilingual learners, and learn key strategies for engaging diverse families in their school and classroom communities.

Leading for Change in Science Assessment Practice - Graduate Certificate

In this certificate, teachers learn how to adapt, develop and pilot assessments that elicit students’ integrated understanding of disciplinary core ideas and crosscutting concepts and that connect to students’ interests and identities. This certificate supports the needs of partnerships in Colorado and beyond in to develop assessment systems aligned to new science standards.

Cultivating Compassion and Dignity in Ourselves and Our Schools - Graduate Certificate

The four-course certificate explores the ways in which practices of compassion and a focus on the essential dignity of educators and students can contribute to the wellness of educators and schools. The certificate will prepare educators to lead efforts to promote compassion and dignity in schools. The certificate provides educators with supports and resources for caring for themselves and for cultivating and sustaining compassion for students, families, their school community and colleagues. The courses prioritize ways in which educators can see and feel their own daily teaching practices, struggles, constraints and joys reflected in the curriculum as well as the ways in which educators might become more compassionate teacher leaders. The compassion practices and skills embedded in the courses support district-level equity goals of creating safe and inclusive schools that challenge racism and promote justice. The certificate draws upon rigorous research, contemplative wisdom and deeply embedded lived experience of educators. The certificate was co-designed by the Crown Institute and the Compassion Institute working in collaboration with teachers, counselors and administrators.

Program Policies

This specialized program does not align with standard campus policies. Please refer to the Specialized Programs (catalog.colorado.edu/specialized-programs/) section of the catalog for more information.

Program Requirements

MA in Teacher Leadership

The MA in Teacher Leadership degree requires completion of any three teacher leadership certificates (a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved, graduate-level coursework) and a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00.

Once a student has completed three of the 10-credit online certificates that prepare them for leadership in their teaching career, they will be awarded the MA in Teacher Leadership. A comprehensive final examination is not required.

Graduate Certificates in Teacher Leadership

Each graduate certificate in teacher leadership requires 10 completed credits, as follows:

- Three two-credit asynchronous classes, taken in sequence. The two-credit asynchronous course sessions are self-paced and must be completed within a six month period. These classes must be completed two weeks before beginning a synchronous capstone in the summer.
- One four-credit synchronous class, taken in the summer. The last course for all certificates is a synchronous capstone course that brings together all the content and curriculum. This course runs as a 3-week intensive after academic school years end in May/June.
Social and Emotional Learning - Graduate Certificate

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Teaching Culturally/Linguistically Diverse Students - Graduate Certificate

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Leading for Change in Science Assessment Practice - Graduate Certificate

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Cultivating Compassion and Dignity in Ourselves and Our Schools - Graduate Certificate

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Learning Outcomes

MA in Teacher Leadership

Knowledge outcomes:

- Teachers will examine and understand the central knowledge claims within each certificate domain.
- Teachers will examine and understand the distinct instructional strategies within each certificate domain.
- Teachers will examine and understand the particular K-12 curricular content for their students’ development.
- Teachers will utilize this certificate domain knowledge in the creation of a classroom, school or community implementation plan.

Skill outcomes:

- Teachers will become acquainted with and able to convey the relevant domain’s content knowledge to students, other teachers and community members.

Graduate Certificates in Teacher Leadership

Social and Emotional Learning - Graduate Certificate

Knowledge outcomes:

This certificate will prepare teacher leaders to:

- Examine and reflect on the role of emotions in teaching and learning.
- Know the important distinct features and curricular approaches utilized in K-12 SEL curricula; consider alternative approaches to student well-being.
- Choose and justify the appropriate K-12 or teacher SEL programming for their setting.

Skill outcomes:

This certificate will prepare teacher leaders to:

- Know the ways in which their emotions affect their classroom interactions and educational contexts.
- Implement an existing or develop an alternative SEL curriculum for their setting.
- Identify or develop a teacher SEL approach for their setting.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education - Graduate Certificate

This certificate will prepare teacher leaders to:

- Recognize and understand the cultural and linguistic differences within their classroom, school and communities.
- Analyze their own classroom as a site for second language acquisition and make appropriate adjustments.
- Use knowledge of factors affecting second language acquisition to modify instruction for multilingual students.
- Capably address the linguistic and cultural differences in classrooms in ways that build on students’ linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Can assess content learning of students who are at different levels of English proficiency.

Leading for Change in Science Assessment Practice - Graduate Certificate

The certificate will prepare teacher leaders to:

- Explain the key assumptions of the vision for equitable teaching and learning in *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* to teachers and other leaders.
- Identify supports needed to help teachers make shifts to teaching and assessment to address new science standards.
- Design tasks that invite students to explain phenomena and solve problems that connect to their interests, experiences and identities.
Cultivating Compassion and Dignity in Ourselves and Our Schools - Graduate Certificate
The certificate will prepare teacher leaders to:

- Consider the ways in which practices of compassion and a focus on the essential dignity of educators and students can contribute to the wellness of educators and schools.
- Explore supports and resources for caring for themselves.
- Identify and practice skills to cultivate and sustain compassion for students, families, their school community and colleagues.
- Apply compassion tools and resources to serve as compassionate leaders in school and community settings and to address the many challenges they face in today’s increasingly precarious climate.